



FARM FRESH

By SARAH LYNCH

The Independent

GRAYSON— Myron Evans said the early bird gets the worm at the Carter County farmers market. But this year, “worms” are available to those who can’t make the 8 a.m. opening.

“This is the first year we have offered evening hours,” said Evans, the extension agent for agriculture in Carter. “We wanted to make it more convenient for the working person who can’t get to the market until after work when they are on their way home.”

Carter County’s can be found at two sites — in Grayson at the old fairgrounds on U.S. 60 and in Olive Hill at Slone’s Supermarket.

At the old county fairgrounds, the market opens at 8 a.m. Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Thursdays. The market opens at 8 a.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Mondays at the supermarket parking lot. The markets are open until everything is gone.

“This is the second year for our new shed out at the fairgrounds,” Evans said. “I think because of the shed and the shade it provides, the fairgrounds might be a more popular spot for the farmers.”

About 35 farmers participate in the market offering fresh vegetables — from green beans and cucumbers to zucchini and cabbage.

“We’ve been set back some by the dry weather,” Evans said, “but most crops have been pretty good this year.”

According to the Farm Service Agency, there are more than 1,000 farmers in the Carter County area.

“To just drive through, you wouldn’t think there’s that much agriculture in this area,” Evans said. “We might have 1,000 farmers, but that’s not full-time farmers. It’s very difficult to be a full-time farmer, and there are very few in this area. Those who farm full-time are mostly tobacco and beef cattle farmers. But if you have any farm income at all, you are considered a farmer.”

There are two reasons to shop at a farmers market, Evans said.

“The markets provide farmers a place to sell their produce and a place for community members to purchase fresh, locally grown vegetables, which helps local economy. And the fresher the vegetables, the more nutritious as well.”

For more information about the farmers markets, call (606) 474-6686.

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Photos



Sarah Blevins works on a sign for the Carter County Farmers' Market Friday, as her father, Raymond Blevins, watches. The Independent



Beans and new potatoes at the Carter County Farmers' Market on U.S. 60 east of Grayson. The Independent



Tina Jenkins bags fresh potatoes Friday for a customer at the Carter County Farmers' Market near Grayson. The Independent